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Message Text

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PAGE 01 KAMPAL 01383 181044 Z

10
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 NEA-10 IO-12

RSR-01 /156 W
---------- 099741
P 180713 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2380

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 1383

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EAID US UG
SUBJECT: USAID DIRECTOR' S MEETING WITH ACTING FONMIN ETIANG

REF: KAMPALA 1382

SUMMARY. AT FAREWELL BARBECUE GIVEN BY DEPARTING NIGERIAN FIRST SECRETARY APRIL 15 USAID DIRECTOR JOHNSON WAS APPROACHED BY ACTING FONMIN ETIANG, WHO ASKED HIM IF HE COULD COME BY FOR COFFEE AND A CHAT FOLLOWING MORNING. HAVING HEARD REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO KENYA RADIO (WHICH TURNED OUT TO HAVE NO APPARENT SUBSTANCE) THAT GENERAL AMIN WAS ANGERED OVER REPORTED USAID WITHDRAWAL AND PLANNED DISMISS ALL AMERICAN TECHNICIANS FORTHWITH, JOHNSON WITH EMBASSY CONCURRENCE KEPT APPOINTMENT IN EXPECTATION IT MIGHT BE FRIENDLY WARNING OF DIRE NEWS TO COME. CHARGE HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH ETIANG, BUT WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO RAISE MATTER OF USAID WITHDRAWAL. (RESULTS OF CHARGE' S MEETING WITH ETIANG HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN KAMPALA 1382). AS ANTICIPATED, ETIANG WANTED TO TALK WITH JOHNSON ABOUT REPORTED USAID WITHDRAWAL BUT FORTUNATELY THERE WAS NO WARNING ABOUT A PRECIPITOUS EXPULSION ORDER BY AMIN. IN FACT, ETIANG SAID " NOT TO WORRY" ABOUT ANYTHING LIKE THAT. END SUMMARY.

1. ETIANG TOLD JOHNSON GENERAL AMIN THOUGHT BRITISH MIGHT BE INFLUENCING US TO WITHDRAW AID SINCE HE WAS CONVINCED BRITISH
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WERE ATTEMPTING DESTROY UGANDAN ECONOMY. PRESIDENT HCONOMIC
RELATIONS, A COTTON TEXTILE AGREEMENT WAS
SIGNED REGULATING THE ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES OF
NICARAGUAN TEXTILES FOR FIVE YEARS. A. I. D. ASSISTANCE
FOCUSED ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND AGRICULTURE PROJECTS.
NICARAGUA WITH A. I. D. ASSISTANCE HAS STARTED AN ANALYSIS
OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR FOR PLANNING AND OUTLINING
AREAS FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE. END QUOTE.

3. " THE U. S. RESPONDS TO DISASTER: MANAGUA": QUOTE.

A MAJOR EARTHQUAKE STRUCK THE CENTER OF MANAGUA,
NICARAGUA, EARLY SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 23. THE
EARTHQUAKE AND ITS TWO STRONG AFTERSHOCKS DESTROYED ABOUT
60 PERCENT OF THE CITY, KILLED AN ESTIMATED 4,000 TO
7,000 PERSONS, AND LEFT OVER 2,000 INJURED AND ABOUT
300,000 HOMELESS. THE ELECTRIC POWER, COMMUNICATION, AND
WATER AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS WERE RUPTURED; TWO MAIN MEDICAL
CENTERS, MOST GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS, AND THE U. S. EMBASSY-
CHANCERY BUILDING WERE DESTROYED. LARGELY AS A RESULT
OF THE EVACUATION OF THE CITY, NO SERIOUS HEALTH PROBLEMS
DEVELOPED BEYOND EMERGENCY TREATMENT OF THE INJURED.

A TASK FORCE WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE THE
MORNING OF THE DISASTER TO COORDINATE U. S. ACTIVITIES ON A
24- HOUR BASIS. SIMULTANEOUSLY, A MILITARY DISASTER
ASSESSMENT TEAM FLEW IN TO MANAGUA FROM THE U. S. SOUTHERN
COMMAND IN THE CANAL ZONE. THE TEAM PROVIDED IMMEDIATE
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND QUICKLY ASSESSED EMERGENCY NEEDS.

ON DECEMBER 28 THE PRESIDENT DESIGNATED MAURICE WILLIAMS,
DEPUTY A. I. D. ADMINISTRATOR, AS COORDINATOR OF THE U. S.
DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT.

URGENT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE WAS PROVIDED BY TWO COMPLETE U. S.
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ARMY MOBILE FIELD HOSPITALS AIRLIFTED FROM FLORIDA, AS WELL
AS PRIVATE MEDICAL GROUPS FROM THE UNITED STATES AND FROM
OTHER COUNTRIES. FOOD NEEDS FOR THE 300,000 REFUGEES OF
THE EARTHQUAKE WERE MET BY A. I. D. DISASTER RELIEF AND
PUBLIC LAW 480 TITLE II (FOOD FOR PEACE) PROCUREMENT.
THE WATER SUPPLY FOR THOSE REMAINING IN MANAGUA WAS
SUPPLEMENTED BY U. S.- SUPPLIED WATER PURIFICATION UNITS.
A U. S. ARMY ENGINEERING COMPANY WAS FLOWN TO MANAGUA TO

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CLEAR EARTHQUAKE RUBBLE AND TO ASSIST IN THE DEMOLITION OF BUILDINGS WHICH, WHILE STILL STANDING, WERE UNSAFE.

ACTHOUGH RELIEF FOOD SUPPLIES ARRIVED RAPIDLY, DISTRI-BUTION BOTTLENECKS DEVELOPED DUE TO THE GENERAL DISRUPTION OF ROADS, THE LARGE NUMBER OF EVACUEES (OVER 300,000 PEOPLE FLED THE CITY), AND THE SHORTAGE OF TRANSPORT. HELICOPTERS AND ADDITIONAL TRUCKS WERE SENT TO MANAGUA TO IMPROVE THE DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD AND POTABLE WATER.

WITHIN A WEEK AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE, APPROXIMATELY $5 MILLION HAD BEEN COMMITTED UNDER THE A. I. D. CONTINGENCY FUND, INCLJDING REIMBURSEMENT TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT OF THE COSTS IT HAD INCURRED; AND FOOD WORTH $2.5 MILLION WAS PROVIDED THROUGH FOOD FOR PEACE AND COMMERCIAL PROCUREMENT. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
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